

## **Erie County Ethics Board**

October 16 Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2017 8 a.m. 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Rath Building

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### **MEMBERS:**

Steven Schwartz, Chair  
Chris Trapp, Vice-Chair  
Rebecca Town, Secretary  
Warren Galloway

### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Leslie Ortiz-Fogg, Ex-Officio

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Miles Gresham

### **STAFF:**

Vianne Uthman, Administrative Staff

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ross Kostecky, Legislature Office (recording)

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1. Meeting called to order at 8:10am.
2. September 2017 meeting minutes reviewed and approved by Trapp, seconded by Town with one abstention.
3. Website Updates / Email Updates (Uthman /Town /Schwartz):
  - i. Request for opinions/actions:
    - i. 9/20/17 request from David Shenk of Veterans Services to attend the annual Dwyer Conference on 10/15-17/2017 was approved with same conditions as last year
    - ii. 9/25/17 Middlebrook concern has been referred to DSS for further action
  - ii. FOIL Requests: The Cameron request is complete despite delays in locating a 2014 filing
  - iii. Other communications:
    - i. The Board has received all outstanding filings for candidates who have taken necessary steps to qualify for public office or who received contributions and had to have filled out a financial disclosure in August. One was not dated, and will be accepted on date of the envelope it was received in.
    - ii. Concerns raised over security procedures when it was discovered that one official submitted the State Ethics Form which was accepted but not reviewed or approved by the Board. Uthman will determine if there is any one in county government responsible for security reviews. Schwartz may consult with David Palmer. The Board will consider options for digitizing and storing documents electronically and ask Ortiz-Fogg to look into this.
4. Old Business:
  - i. Update: In the matter of Morton vs. County of Erie, et al legislator Morton has filed a second amended Complaint.
  - ii. Follow-up on 2016 Financial Disclosure Forms that omitted the value of gifts received. Individuals were sent letters requesting specification on whether the gifts had a value of \$75 or greater indicating that the individual had the option of returning the gift or the market value thereof or giving the gift or amount to a charity. When no response initially received from one individual a second letter was sent. The individual replied that they and the commissioner of the department did not believe their title required an ethics form be submitted, however did submit a second form that simply omitted the gift. This individual will be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board before the matter is referred to the District Attorney.

5. New Business (Schwartz):
  - i. Board Membership: Gresham term expires 12/31/17 and has requested to continue. This was communicated to County Executive on 9/1/17. His name will be submitted to the legislature for a full term.
6. Next meeting scheduled for Monday January 8, 2018 at 8 a.m.
7. Tentative 2018 meeting dates for Review will be considered at the December meeting:
  - i. January 8, 2018
  - ii. February 5, 2018
  - iii. March 5, 2018
  - iv. April 2, 2018
  - v. May 7, 2018
  - vi. June 4, 2018
  - vii. July 2, 2018 \*
  - viii. August 6, 2018
  - ix. September 17, 2018\*
  - x. November 5, 2018
  - xi. December 3, 2018
8. Motion to adjourn by Warren, seconded Town at 8:39 am.